IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for use in providing a Web team portal in a collaborative system comprising the steps of:

setting up a plurality of team members to collaboratively communicate;

automatically collecting presence information of each of said members in said team;

automatically determining a current location for each team member; and

dynamically displaying a visual representation having a plurality of display windows including at least said team members, said collected presence and location information, and a set of mechanisms for a team member to use in conjunction with said displayed presence and location information to initiate a prescribed mode of communicating with one or more others of said members in said team for a particular collaborative purpose;

wherein said visual representation comprises a time axis having axis positions corresponding to respective ones of a plurality of time ranges, a category axis having axis positions corresponding to respective ones of the team members, and a plurality of graphic elements, a given one of the graphic elements specifying an activity state for a particular one of the plurality of team members for a particular time period, the particular one of the plurality of team members being indicated by position of the graphic element relative to the category axis, the particular time period being indicated by position of the graphic element relative to the time axis.

2. (Original) The method as defined in claim 1 further including a step of a member of said team employing said displayed presence and location information and at least one of said mechanisms to initiate communication with one or more of others of said members in said team.

3. (Original) The method as defined in claim 1 wherein said prescribed mode of communicating includes at least either an asynchronous mode or a synchronous mode.

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4. (Original) The method as defined in claim 3 wherein said step of dynamically displaying includes a step of automatically updating one or more of said plurality of display windows.

5. (Original) The method as defined in claim 4 wherein said steps of automatically collecting presence and location information include steps of automatically updating said presence and location information, respectively.

6. (Original) The method as defined in claim 5 wherein said presence information for a team member represents prescribed activities of said team member regarding one or more of predetermined instrumentalities and/or actions.

7. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 6 wherein said set of mechanisms includes at least email, chat or voice call.

8. (Original) The method as defined in claim 6 further including a step of maintaining said collected and updated presence and location information and a step of notifying said participants of changes of status in said presence and location information for said members in said team.

9. (Original) The method as defined in claim 8 wherein said set of mechanisms further includes persistent chat and said step of initiating communication further includes initiating a persistent chat session.

10. (Currently amended) Apparatus for use in providing a Web team portal in a collaborative system comprising:
   means for setting up a plurality of team members to collaboratively communicate;
   means for automatically collecting presence information of each of said members in said team;
   means for automatically determining a current location for each team member; and

means for dynamically displaying a visual representation having a plurality of display windows including at least said team members, said collected presence and location information, and a set of mechanisms for a team member to use in conjunction with said displayed presence and location information to initiate a prescribed mode of communicating with one or more others of said members in said team for a particular collaborative purpose;

wherein said visual representation comprises a time axis having axis positions corresponding to respective ones of a plurality of time ranges, a category axis having axis positions corresponding to respective ones of the team members, and a plurality of graphic elements, a given one of the graphic elements specifying an activity state for a particular one of the plurality of team members for a particular time period, the particular one of the plurality of team members being indicated by position of the graphic element relative to the category axis, the particular time period being indicated by position of the graphic element relative to the time axis.

11. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 10 further including a means for allowing a member of said team to employ said displayed presence and location information and at least one of said mechanisms to initiate communication with one or more of others of said members in said team.

12. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 10 wherein said prescribed mode of communicating includes at least either an asynchronous mode or a synchronous mode.

13. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 12 wherein said means for dynamically displaying includes means for automatically updating one or more of said plurality of display windows.

14. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 13 wherein said means for automatically determining location information includes means for automatically updating said location information.

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15. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 14 wherein said means for automatically collecting presence information includes means for automatically updating said presence information.

16. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 15 wherein said presence information for a participant represents prescribed activities of said participant regarding one or more of predetermined instrumentalities and/or actions.

17. (Previously presented) The invention as defined in claim 16 wherein said set of mechanisms includes at least email, chat or voice call.

18. (Currently amended) Apparatus for use in providing a Web team portal in a collaborative system comprising:

a call set up unit to set up a plurality of members in a team to collaboratively communicate;

a user agent unit to automatically collect presence and location information of each of said members in said team; and

a visual display unit to dynamically display a visual representation having a plurality of display windows including at least said team members, said collected presence and location information, and a set of mechanisms for a team member to use in conjunction with said displayed presence and location information to initiate a prescribed mode of communicating with one or more others of said members in said team for a particular collaborative purpose;

wherein said visual representation comprises a time axis having axis positions corresponding to respective ones of a plurality of time ranges, a category axis having axis positions corresponding to respective ones of the team members, and a plurality of graphic elements, a given one of the graphic elements specifying an activity state for a particular one of the plurality of team members for a particular time period, the particular one of the plurality of team members being indicated by position of the graphic element relative to the category axis, the particular time period being indicated by position of the graphic element relative to the time axis.

19. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 18 further including a device to allow a member of said team to employ said displayed presence and location information and at least one of said mechanisms to initiate communication with one or more of others of said members in said team.

20. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 18 wherein said prescribed mode of communicating includes at least either an asynchronous mode or a synchronous mode.

21. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 20 wherein said visual display unit automatically updates one or more of said plurality of display windows.

22. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 21 wherein said user agent unit automatically updates said presence and location information.

23. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 22 wherein said presence information for a participant represents prescribed activities of said participant regarding one or more of predetermined instrumentalities and/or actions.

24. (Previously presented) The invention as defined in claim 23 wherein said set of mechanisms includes at least email, chat or voice call.

25. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 22 wherein said user agent unit further maintains said collected and updated presence and location information and notifies said participants of changes of status in said presence information for said participants in said group.

26. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 25 wherein said set of mechanisms further includes persistent chat and said step of initiating communication further includes initiating a persistent chat session.

27. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 26 wherein said set up unit communication further sets up third party calls.